

“Work creation through skill is our aim...”

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Bikram Dasgupta, Chairman and CEO, Globsyn Group, is an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur and Harvard Business School, USA. He has been in the forefront of the IT revolution in India. After an extremely successful stint at HCL, he went on to found Pertech Computers Ltd. (PCL). Founded in 1995, Globsyn Group, brings together Institution and Infrastructure (I&I) into a seamless entity, and is a leading organisation providing innovative solutions in the field of Knowledge, Skills, Technology and Innoventures. He spoke to BE about the challenges he faced in his entrepreneurial journey.



Q) What has the Globsyn Group achieved?

A) I am a serial entrepreneur. As an entrepreneur, it is my role to lay down the vision for the company – having a single source for the vision ensures that people, the most prized assets in any organisation, are not only rooted to a cause but are able to take that vision forward to the operational arena. I left PCL to found Globsyn, in Bengal, in 1995. The theme revolved around building Infrastructure and Institution (I&I) for the Information Technology sector, and gives momentum to the IT movement in Bengal. IT both as a sector and a service that operates on a 24×7 basis needed matching infrastructure, using the latest technologies. This gave birth to intelligent buildings – infrastructure that offshore clients were familiar with. My first project in that direction was ‘Infinity’ – the first IT Park in the country. The second part of the journey involved creating an ‘institution’, where youngsters from core engineering backgrounds could be trained as ‘software professionals’. ‘TechnoCampus’, one of its kind Software Finishing School in the country, was the expression of this dream. Thus while on the one hand you had ‘Infinity’ – a next gen workplace, on the other you had ‘TechnoCampus’, which was geared to provide trained ‘software professionals’ to IT organisations. Over the years, ‘infrastructure’ and ‘institution’ grew into education, software and infrastructure. Today the group is into Knowledge, Skills, Technology and Innoventure, with the core vision of I&I remaining the same.

Q) What is your vision for the next five years?

A) We are today in a space where education is at the centre surrounded and supported by two key pillars – technology and infrastructure. With technology getting more and more enmeshed with people’s lives, we are looking at an ambitious project of building virtual knowledge campuses. Modelled around real-life brick and mortar campuses, we envisage putting into place a single technology based platform that can be accessed by students, parents and corporates alike. Apart from supporting the latest learning management systems, the virtual campus would not only have a built in social/community piece to allow all the stakeholders to interact among themselves, but members can also do online shopping/transactions.

Q) There are many engineering graduates. But many of them do not get jobs. Why?

A) The focus turns on increasing the number of degree holders but holding a degree does not ensure either a job or a career. If one is unable to work, one has not learnt enough to do it. Work creation through skill is our aim.

Q) What about skill development?

A) The central government is putting in a great deal of financial resources to develop skills. The government is drawing up plans to bring together vocational skills and formal education into a single integrated mainstream system. It will be like – if one has a Bachelor’s degree from the formal education system, one must also pick up skills in a vocational stream, say for instance, automotive, retail, etc. In line with this,

Globsyn has entered into a Joint Venture with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to develop skills in IT, Manufacturing and Service sectors. We are planning to set up 35 skills centres across West Bengal and have plans to increase the number of centres across India.

Q) How is Globsyn different from other business schools?

A) At Globsyn Business School, our focus and thrust are on the method of teaching and student learning. We use the latest developments in 'Learner-Centric' teaching and learning methods while using technology to supplement and aid the learning process. With innovation, research and technology at the heart of the system, we have invested close to a million dollars in creation of R&D and USD 1-1.5 million was spent on developing software tools.

Q) According to media reports, London Business School has about 5 acres of land and graduates that pass out are 1000 annually while in India, IIMs and many business schools have more than 100 acres but the total number of students passing out are around 2700. Is it an efficient use of limited resources like land?

A) London Business School is not an apt example since it is at the centre of London while Harvard Business School has 150 acres of land. Both are hugely branded and people have no doubts about the quality of education in both these institutions. It is important to realise that all branded B-Schools bring in value riding on solid processes, systems and policies – things which take passion and vision to develop.

In the Indian scenario, ideally, a Business School in the city needs about 0.5 acres of land while a school outside the city limits needs 2.5 acres of land.

